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Message Text

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20
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11

COME-00 AID-20 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 FEA-02 SCI-06 DRC-01

INT-08 /186 W
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R 031448Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE 5643
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1139

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MT, UK
SUBJ: UK-MALTESE RELATIONS: RESULT OF MINTOFF'S TALKS
IN LONDON

REF: VALLETTA 1130

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HAYDON GAVE US SOME BACKGROUND ON MINTOFF' STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT ON JULY 1 REPORTED REFTEL.

2. HAYDON CONFIRMED THAT MINTOFF'S INTENTION TO RESUME SERVICE PAYMENTS ON UK LOANS, AND CORRESPONDING UK AGREEMENT TO INITIATE NEW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF ONE MILLION POUNDS, WAS SUSPENDED WHEN MINTOFF BECAME ALARMED AT POSSIBLE AFFECT ON MALTA OF BRITISH DEFENSE REVIEW. AGREEMENT TO MOVE AHEAD ON BOTH POINTS ANNOUNCED JULY 1, ACCORDING TO HAYDON, WERE NOT BASED ON ANY BRITISH COMMITMENT OR ASSURANCES WITH REGARD TO DEFENSE REVIEW. HAYDON SAID THAT ALL MINTOFF WAS PROMISED IN CONFIDENTIAL

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LONDON WAS NO "UNILATERAL" ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AND THAT

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HMG WOULD CONSULT WITH GOM PRIOR TO ANY FIRM DECISIONS.

3. UK TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS BEEN MADE MORE FLEXIBLE BY REMOVING CONDITION IMPOSED BY HEATH THAT NO SINGLE PROJECT COULD EXCEED FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS IN VALUE.

4. MINTOFF'S STATEMENT ON UK WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE STORAGE CAPACITY FOR OIL FOR GOM USE IMPLIED DETAILS ALREADY AGREED. IN FACT, HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS JUST BEGUN NEGOTIATIONS TIH GOM ON THIS SUBJECT AND HAYDON EXPECTS THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS. FIRST SESSION WAS NOT PARTICULARLY PROMISING. HAYDON SAID UKG COULD PROBABLY PROVIDE UP TO FIFTY THOUSAND TONS CAPACITY OF STORAGE, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WOULD HOLD WELL OVER ONE MONTH'S SUPPLY FOR MALTA.

5. COMMENT: WHILE GOM WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BARGAIN HARD ON CAPACITY AND COST OF OIL STORAGE, IT STILL APPEARS THAT MINTOFF AT PRESENT SEES NO MERIT IN UPSETTING SMOOTH COURSE OF UK-MALTESE RELATIONS.

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